

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 /039 W

----- 119496

R 301605Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2342

INFO NWC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 3615

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XA, CG, NI, MILI

SUBJ: NWC AFRICAN STUDY GROUP IN KINSHASA

REF: A) KINSHASA 3436 (NOTAL, B) KINSHASA 562 (NOTAL)

NWC VISIT TO KINSHASA WENT WELL. GROUP ARRIVED 8 P.M. APRIL 28. NEXT DAY IT WAS BRIEFED ON ZAIRIAN PROBLEMS BY AMBASSADOR HINTON, HELD FOLLOW-ON DISCUSSION WITH COUNTRY TEAM, AND BENEFITED FROM PERCEPTIVE ACCOUNT OF CURRENT ANGOLAN SITUATION BY FSO FUGIT FROM LUANDA. AT 10 A.M. GROUP WENT TO DEPT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND WAS BRIEFED BY DND DIRECTOR GENERAL, GENERAL MOLONGYA, WHO AFTERWARD HOSTED RECEPTION IN GROUP'S HONOR AND ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAD AGREED TO RECEIVE IT LATER IN DAY. AT 11 A.M. GROUP PROCEEDED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY WHERE FONMIN BULA'S COUNSELOR, BULAMBO, IN PRESENCE OF OTHER DFA OFFICIALS. KALONJI SPOKE AT LENGTH ON ZAIRE'S FOREIGN POLICY (POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC), QUOTING FREQUENTLY FROM MOBUTU'S SPEECH AT AAI CONFERENCE LAST JANUARY (REF B). HE THEN FIELDDED QUESTIONS. PRESIDENT MOBUTU, FLANKED BY GEN MOLONGYA AND GEN BABIA (HEAD OF PRESIDENTIAL MILITARY STAFF), RECEIVED GROUP MOST AFFABLY AT 5 P.M. FOR OVER AN HOUR. MENTIONED PLEASANT VISIT HE HAD PAID TO NWC DURING 1963 VISIT TO US, AND EXPRESSED REGRET THAT PRESS OF DUTIES PREVENTED HIS FROM STICKING TO EARLIER PRACTICE OF PERSONAL

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BRIEFING NWC GROUPS WHEN THEY VISITED ZAIRE. HE INVITED AND RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS (ON ME, AUTHENTICITY), OFFERED REFRESHMENTS, AND TOOK GROUP ON TOUR OF PRESIDENTIAL GARDENS DURING WHICH HE SHOWED HIGH GOOD HUMOR. AMBASSADOR JONES WAS INTERVIEWED ON RADIO/TV IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD. VISIT RECEIVED GOOD MEDIA COVERAGE. GROUP DEPARTED FOR LUBUMBASHI APRIL 30 AT 0800.

2. VISIT WAS NOT WITHOUT SURPRISES. SHORTLY BEFORE GROUP ARRIVED, GEN MOLONGYA'S OFFICE INFORMED EMBASSY WITHOUT EXPLANATION THAT LUBUMBASHI VISIT WOULD HAVE TO BE CANCELLED. AMBASSADOR HINTON SAW FONMIN BULA THAT NIGHT ON ANOTHER MATTER AND URGED LIFTING OF THIS RESTRICTION. BULA'S REPLY WAS GUARDED, ALTHOUGH HE UNDERTOOK TO SEE WHAT HE COULD DO NEXT MORNING. OUR DOUBTS WERE THUS UNRESOLVED, HOWEVER, NEXT MORNING AT DND RECEPTION GENERAL MOLONGYA ASSURED DCM THAT LUBUMBASHI TRIP WAS OK, AND DID NOT MENTION PREVIOUS CANCELLATION.

3. CALL ON PRESIDENT MOBUTU WAS UNEXPECTED BONUS. BULA HAD EARLIER INDICATED TO US THAT SUCH CALL WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE AND HAD OFFERED MOLONGYA INSTEAD.

4. MEMBERS OF NWC GROUP WERE IMPRESSED BY AMIABILITY AND FORTHRIGHTNESS OF ZAIRIAN HOSTS; COMMON THEME STRUCK BY ALL ZAIRIAN SPEAKERS WAS THAT ZAIRE PURSUES ITS OWN POLICIES, HAS POLICY DIFFERENCES WITH US, BUT CONTINUES TO PLACE HIGH VALUE ON US AID AND FRIENDSHIP AND TO REMEMBER GRATEFULLY THE VITAL US HELP RECEIVED IN CRUCIAL EARLY YEARS.

5. COMMENT. SEPTEL.
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